GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3095
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Encroachment of Forest Land
Tumane Shri Krupal Balaji

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of forest land in the country along with the details of the forest land occupied by tribals/forest dwellers and non-tribal people for livelihood, State/ UT-wise;
(b) whether complaints have been received by the Union Government regarding encroachment of forest land by outsiders for constructing farm houses and Dhabas in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
(c) the penal provisions under the Indian Forest Act for encroachment of reserved forest land; and
(d) the details of the action taken along with the number of persons against whom action has been taken under these provisions in Maharashtra during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The State / UT wise details of recorded forest areas as per India State of Forest Report, 2015 of the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun is given at Annexure-I. The details of the forest land occupied by tribals/forest dwellers and non-tribal people for livelihood, are not maintained at the Ministry level.

As per information received from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, a total of 136,12,921.16 acres of forest land has been distributed under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as on 31.01.2017. The State/UT wise details are given at Annexure-II.

(b) The Ministry has not received any specific complaint regarding encroachment of forest land by outsiders for constructing farm houses and Dhabas in Maharashtra.

(c) As per the provisions of Section 63(c) of the Indian Forest Act,1927 the penal provision for encroachment of reserved forest land is as under:

"whoever, with intent to cause damage or injury to the public or to any person, or to cause wrongful gain as defined in the Indian Penal Code, alters, moves, destroys or defaces any boundary-mark of any forest or wasteland to which the provisions of this Act are applied, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or fine, or with both."

(d) The information received from State of Maharashtra regarding action taken against encroachment in forest area is at Annexure – III.

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